

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 23, 2004, please enter the specified amendments and consider the following remarks. By this response, claims 26 and 28 are canceled without prejudice, and no new claims are added. Thus claims 27 and 29 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has: (i) objected to the drawing under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature specified in the claims; (ii) rejected claims 26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,796,434 to Lempel; (iii) objected to claims 27 and 29 as being dependent upon rejected base claims; and (iv) indicated that claims 27 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of granting a discussion over the phone on December 7, as well as reviewing and responding to Applicants' proposed amendments shortly thereafter. As was preliminarily approved by the Examiner, Figure 12 has been amended as set forth in the Amendment to the Drawings section. Specifically digital coefficient obtaining component 1205 and motion vector determining component 1240 are now depicted to show the corresponding means features. Support for the change to Figure 12 is found, inter alia, in the following portions of the specification. First, at page 31, lines 6-8, the specification discusses one way the processor generally obtains information such as, for example, digital coefficient

Appln: No.: 09/501,182
Amdt./Response submitted Dec. 23, 2004
Replying to Office Action dated July 23, 2004

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7095.0010-01
Sony Ref. No.: 50M2327.01

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to Figure 12. This sheet replaces the original Fig. 12 drawing sheet.

Attachments: **Tab 1 - 1 Replacement Sheet (Figure 12).**
 Tab 2 - 1 Annotated Sheet showing changes (Figure 12).

information. After obtaining the digital coefficient information, the processor performs calculations to get the motion vector via motion vector determining component 1240.

Page 12, lines 2-4 of the specification, then, discloses the means element in the context of the system, while page 11, lines 11-13 discusses how this element can be a component (routine) of the computer program product, such routines, of course, being executed by the processor. The 'means', in this case is the processor. Finally, claims 28 and 29, as well as page 12, lines 2-5, of the specification discuss the digital coefficient information obtaining component and the motion vector determining component as being interrelated. Furthermore, Applicants have amended the corresponding section of the Specification to be consonant with Fig. 12. Accordingly, no new matter is added by the amendments presented herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicants have canceled claims 26 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer. Meanwhile, as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended claims 27 and 29 to include all of the limitations of the original claims 26 and 28, from which each respectfully depends. As such, Applicants submit that these claims are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 23, 2004

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Attachments: **Tab 1 - 1 Replacement Sheet (Figure 12).**
 Tab 2 - 1 Annotated Sheet showing changes (Figure 12).

ANNOTATED SHEET

Express Mail No. EV 606104521 US

Inventor(s): Ching-Fang CHANG Application No.: 09/501,182

Title: MOTION ESTIMATION PROCESS AND SYSTEM USING SPARSE SEARCH BLOCK-MATCHING AND
INTEGRAL PROTECTION

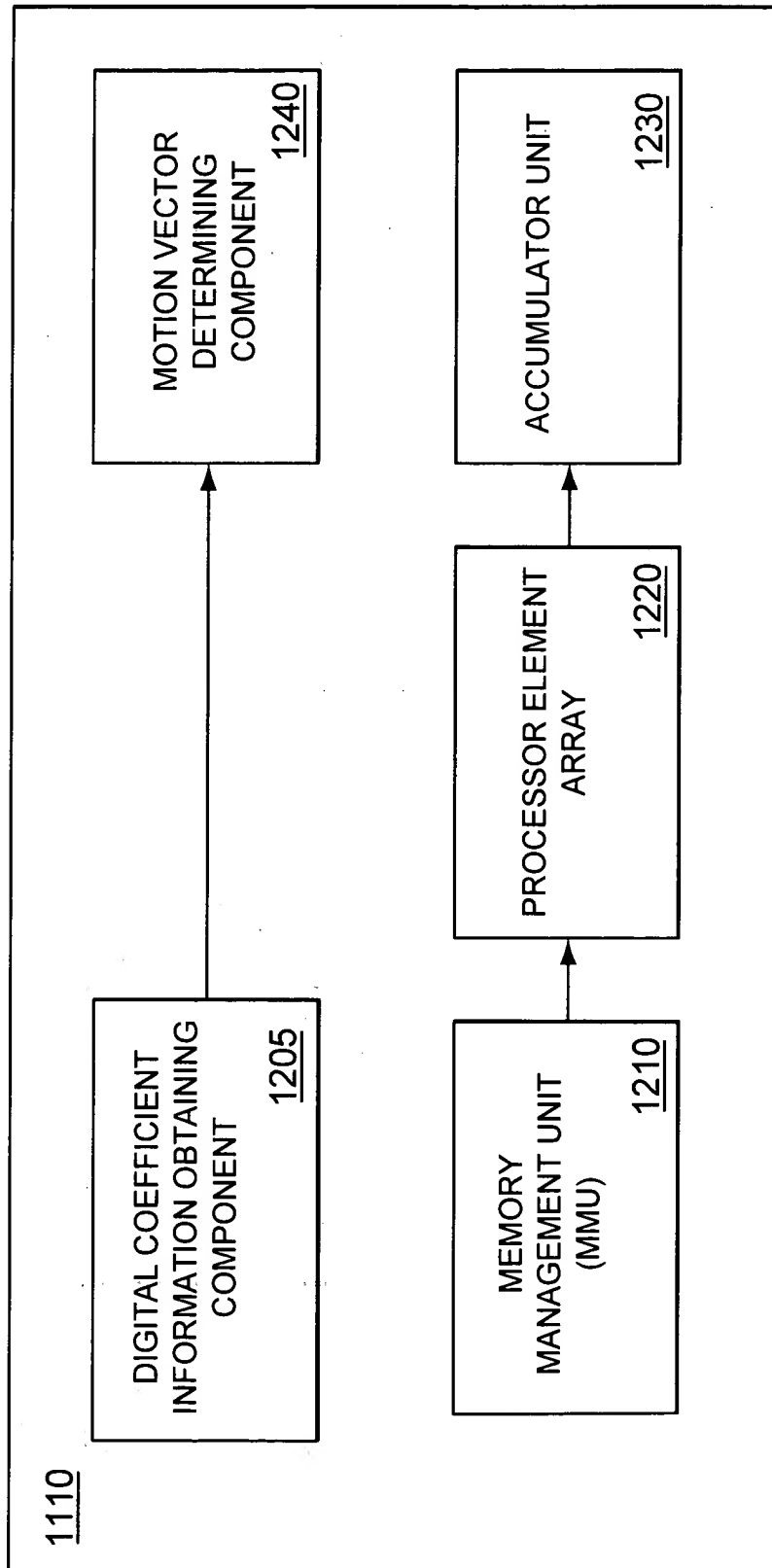


FIG. 12